

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR GARY STEVENS

Introduced: 1/23/06

Referred: Health, Education and Social Services

A RESOLUTION

1 **Relating to support of community water fluoridation.**

2 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

3 **WHEREAS** fluoridation was listed in 1999 by the United States Centers for Disease
4 Control and Prevention as one of the 10 greatest public health achievements of the twentieth
5 century; and

6 **WHEREAS** United States Surgeon General Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona stated
7 that "I join previous Surgeon Generals in acknowledging the continuing public health role for
8 community water fluoridation in enhancing the oral health of all Americans"; and

9 **WHEREAS** fluoridation is the precise adjustment of the existing naturally occurring
10 fluoride level in drinking water to an optimal level that has been determined to be ideal for the
11 prevention of dental cavities in children and adults; and

12 **WHEREAS** dental decay can be largely prevented through a health routine that
13 includes good oral hygiene, diet, and fluoride; and

14 **WHEREAS** dental decay can lead to complications such as abscessed teeth and is
15 linked to such serious health conditions as premature delivery of infants, heart disease, lung
16 disease, and low birth weight babies; and

1 **WHEREAS** 45 percent of Alaskans do not have access to optimally fluoridated water;
2 and

3 **WHEREAS** 100 percent of Alaska cities with a population greater than 30,000 have
4 access to fluoridated water; and

5 **WHEREAS** an independent study by the United States Department of Health and
6 Human Services showed that Alaska Native children have three to four times more tooth
7 decay than the national average; and

8 **WHEREAS** 69 recognized health and other organizations in the United States
9 recognize community water fluoridation as an effective and safe method of reducing dental
10 caries; and

11 **WHEREAS** dental disease leads to higher insurance premiums, higher business costs,
12 and lost time at work and at school; and

13 **WHEREAS** Alaska is bearing the burden of higher Medicaid costs from
14 nonfluoridated communities;

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Alaska State Legislature that the benefits of community
16 water fluoridation are recognized; and be it

17 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that all new water systems incorporate engineering
18 designed to allow easy incorporation of fluoridation if the community so desires; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that all communities in Alaska are urged to offer their
20 citizens the benefits of optimally fluoridated water.